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Editorial Notes.

The Vienna Peace Congress.

The committees for the Twenty-first International Peace Congress at Vienna have now been chosen, and a very large number of leading Austrians are taking personal interest in the plans. The Chairman of the Honorary Committee of the Congress is His Excellency Leopold Count Berchtold, Minister of the Imperial and Royal House, and a list of the members of the committee, sixty in all, includes ten ministers—of finance, the interior, justice, public instruction, agriculture, etc.—besides members of the House of Lords, privy counselors, lawyers, professors, and other prominent citizens. There are two Honorary Presidents of the Congress—His Excellency Karl von Grabmayr, President of the Supreme Court of the Empire, and His Excellency Wilhelm Exner, both members of the House of Lords. The Chairman of the Executive Committee is Dr. Alfred H. Fried, and the Secretary, Dr. Alex. Dorn Ritter. On this committee and the Ladies' Committee appears the name of the lamented Baroness von Suttner, who was so deeply interested in the success of the Congress and actively engaged in promoting every plan for its hospitable reception in her city. Her death will cast a shade of sadness over the proceedings; but it would not be in accord with her desire to have the enthusiasm of preparation one whit lessened, but rather that there be added effort on the part of her colleagues to insure the widest possible influence from the Congress.

There is unusual appropriateness and significance in the choice of Vienna for this meeting in 1914, because it is the hundredth anniversary of the famous Congress at Vienna, which convened in September, 1814, by which the affairs of Europe were rearranged.

The American Peace Society has already appointed about twenty-five delegates and hopes to add materially to the list in the next month. The Austrian Railways have granted reduced fares; the Austro-American steamship line also offers reduction, and every facility will be made to render Vienna easy of access and the sojourn agreeable and advantageous. The date is Sept. 15-19.

XXIXth International Law Conference.

Final arrangements have been practically completed for the Twenty-ninth Conference of the International Law Association, which will convene at The Hague September 7-12 of this year, under the presidency of Dr. D. Josephus Jitta, of the Royal Netherlands Council of State. The sessions are to be held at the Palace of the Permanent Court of Arbitration ("Palace of Peace"), and the headquarters of the International Law Association will be at the Palace Hotel, Scheveningen. Among the honorary presidents of the conference are Dr. J. Loudon, Minister for Foreign Affairs;

Dr. A. F. De Savornin-Lohman and Dr. A. P. C. Van Karnebeek, Ministers of State and Netherlands Members of the Permanent Court of Arbitration, and Dr. W. H. De Beaufort, honorary president of the First Peace Conference and former Minister for Foreign Affairs.

The program is extensive and varied, and many important subjects are to be considered, such as International Arbitration and Disarmament, The Law of Aviation, Foreign Judgments and Arbitral Awards, Private International Law, the Law of War, Exemption of Private Property at Sea from Capture, etc. The only American on the formal program is Dean Charles Noble Gregory, of the George Washington University Law School. Among the pacifists who will address the conference are Mr. Joseph G. Alexander, Dr. W. Evans Darby, Sir Thomas Barclay, and Mr. Justice G. G. Phillimore. A delightful round of receptions and excursions has been planned by the reception committee: a reception by the Royal Dutch Government in the Counts' Hall at The Hague, a *soirée* and a banquet at the Kurhaus at Scheveningen, excursions to Delft and the tomb of Grotius, to Rotterdam, with a banquet on board the *New Amsterdam*, and a day's excursion to Amsterdam.

The honorary secretaries, G. G. Phillimore and T. Baty, of 1, Mitre Court Buildings, Temple, London, E. C., request that all members intending to be present notify them at their earliest convenience.

The International Law Association, formerly called the "Association for the Reform and Codification of the Law of Nations," and organized in 1873 through the efforts of Dr. James B. Miles, secretary of the American Peace Society, seconded by David Dudley Field, Elihu Burritt, and others, has now about four hundred members, and has had a most successful and influential history. It has had much to do with the development of international arbitration and peace in their international legal aspects.

World Church Peace Congress.

Much interest is developing in the world conference of ministers to be held in Constance, Switzerland, August 2-5. The Church Peace Union and the British and German Church Peace Councils are co-operating in the plans for this meeting, which is really the outcome of a letter sent early in the year by the pastors of Switzerland to the churches of Europe asking for the calling of such a conference. Many delegates will be sent by the three church peace organizations, and all churches interested are asked to name official delegates. "The only credentials demanded will be the desire to help the cause," however, and all clergymen traveling abroad this summer are especially urged to arrange their plans so as to attend the sessions. The gathering is unique in

nature and may prove to be the initial step in a great forward campaign of the united churches of the world for ushering in the era of brotherhood, good-will, and peace. The Secretary states that the conference is not in the nature of a great demonstration of the churches, but is to be "an intimate conference, where the pastors of the world, who bear upon their hearts the burden of militarism and preparation for war, might meet together face to face and become acquainted with one another, and consider how the churches of the world might more and more protest unitedly against increase of militarism, and how together they might help on the cause of international good-will."

**Panama Tolls
Exemption
Repeal.**

On June 11, after long weeks of discussion, the Senate by a vote of 50 to 35 passed the Sims bill, repealing the clause of the Panama Canal Tolls Act which granted exemption from tolls to American coastwise vessels, as it was amended by the Simmons-Norris compromise. The vote was considered a victory for the President's position in spite of the amendment. On June 12 the House of Representatives accepted the Senate's amendment by a vote of 216 to 71. Speaker Clark signed the bill and it was sent to the White House. On Monday, June 15, the final act in the dramatic contest was closed when President Wilson affixed his signature to the document. The amendment is as follows:

"Provided, That the passage of this act shall not be construed or held as a waiver or relinquishment of any right the United States may have under the treaty with Great Britain, ratified the 21st of February, 1902, or the treaty with the Republic of Panama, ratified February 26, 1904, or otherwise, to discriminate in favor of its vessels by exempting the vessels of the United States or its citizens from the payment of tolls or passage through said canal, or as in any way waiving, impairing, or affecting any right of the United States under said treaty, or otherwise with respect to the sovereignty over or the ownership, control, and management of said canal and the regulation of the conditions or charges of traffic through the same."

**Death of
Aldis B. Browne.**

On June 1 occurred the death of one of the members of the board of directors of the American Peace Society, Mr. Aldis B. Browne, a lifelong resident of Washington, D. C. Mr. Browne was appointed a director in 1911, when the headquarters of the society were moved to Washington. He had been in failing health for more than a year, and had for that reason been unable to render the active service which his deep and genuine interest in the cause would otherwise have prompted. A committee from the board of directors was appointed to attend the funeral: George E. Roberts, George W. White, Jackson H. Ralston, Benjamin F. Trueblood, and Arthur D. Call.

Mr. Browne was one of Washington's most prominent and able lawyers and influential citizens. He was a member of the bar of the District of Columbia and of the bar of the Supreme Court of the United States; one of the faculty of the Georgetown University Law School, as well as a member of the executive committee of the American Bar Association. He was a leading Methodist, and was chairman of the board of trustees of the new American University, and would have presided at its opening on May 27 had his health permitted. He was interested in every form of Christian and philanthropic service.

**Church Peace
Union Prizes.**

So many inquiries are being received in regard to the prizes offered by the Church Peace Union for essays on international peace that we are glad to give the details concerning the contest. The Union has offered to the churches and theological seminaries five thousand dollars (\$5,000) in prizes to be distributed as follows:

1. A prize of one thousand dollars (\$1,000) for the best monograph of between 15,000 and 25,000 words on any phase of international peace by any pastor of any church in the United States.
2. Three prizes, one of five hundred dollars (\$500), one of three hundred dollars (\$300), and one of two hundred dollars (\$200), for the three best essays on international peace by students of the theological seminaries of the United States.
3. One thousand dollars (\$1,000) in ten prizes of one hundred dollars (\$100) each to any church member between twenty (20) and thirty (30) years of age.
4. Twenty (20) prizes of fifty dollars (\$50) each to Sunday-school pupils between fifteen (15) and twenty (20) years of age.
5. Fifty (50) prizes of twenty dollars (\$20) each to Sunday-school pupils between ten (10) and fifteen (15) years of age.

All essays must be in by January 1, 1915.

Further particulars about these prizes, as well as literature to be used in the preparation of the essays, and lists of books can be secured by addressing the Secretary of The Church Peace Union, Rev. Frederick Lynch, D. D., 70 Fifth Avenue, New York City.

The success of the contest among the members of the churches and Sunday schools will depend largely upon the efforts put forth by the pastors and Sunday-school superintendents, and it is hoped that they will endeavor to arouse widespread interest in their communities. Only one essay is to be sent by each church and Sunday school, and local essay contests will therefore need to be organized in order to determine which essay shall be forwarded to the Church Peace Union. From the \$1,000 prize offered to clergymen, the Union expects to secure several monographs which will be real contributions to the literature of the peace cause and available for publication and distribution.